

Immunizations in Mississippi

Current Immunization Law in Mississippi:

- Prior to school entry (public or private) all Mississippi children (including all foreign born individuals) must have received required immunizations as outlined by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).
- Currently 5 vaccines (with a maximum total of 16 injections) are required for school entry.
 - MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
 - DTap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ["whooping cough"])
 - Varicella ("chicken pox")
 - Polio
 - Hepatitis B

Immunizations and Autism

Immunizations don't cause autism – multiple, independent scientific studies have conclusively shown that there is **no** link between immunizations and autism.

Exemptions from Required Immunizations:

- Mississippi allows for medical exemptions.
 - MSDH currently accepts all medical exemptions submitted by a Mississippi licensed primary care physician (pediatrician, family medicine or internal medicine), regardless of medical reason.
 - Since 2007 Mississippi has seen a greater than 250% increase in accepted Medical Exemptions.
- Mississippi (along with 32 other states) does not permit "philosophical" or "conscientious belief" exemptions.
 - The granting of Philosophical Exemptions is linked to disease outbreaks.
- Mississippi and West Virginia do not allow for Religious Exemptions.
 - Religious Exemptions were deemed unconstitutional by the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1979.

